Chapter III: Best Management Practices (BMPs) For Outdoor Ranges

3.0 Background

To operate an outdoor range that is environmentally protective requires implementing an integrated lead management program, which incorporates a variety of appropriate BMPs. These BMPs create a four step approach to lead management:

- Step 1 - **Control and contain lead bullets and bullet fragments**
- Step 2 - **Prevent migration of lead to the subsurface and surrounding surface water bodies**
- Step 3 - **Remove the lead from the range and recycle**
- Step 4 - **Documenting activities and keeping records**

An effective lead management program requires implementing and evaluating BMPs from each of the four steps identified above and illustrated as Figure 3-1. The BMPs discussed in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 should not be considered alternatives to lead reclamation, but rather practices that should be followed between lead reclamation events.

It is important to note that the cost and complexity of these BMPs vary significantly. **It is your range's individual characteristics that will determine which BMPs should be implemented.** The specific BMPs are described more fully below.

3.1 Bullet and Shot Containment Techniques (Step 1)

3.1.1 Bullet Containment

Knowing where spent lead is allows the appropriate BMP to be used. The single most effective BMP for managing lead in these areas is by bullet containment. Owners/operators should employ a containment system that allows for the maximum containment of lead on-site. The containment systems mentioned in this section are for reference only. Each containment design for a range is site specific. Each owner/operator must look at the various factors in determining which containment system is best for his or her range. Some factors include: overhead, cost of installation, maintenance (e.g., creation of lead dust from steel containment systems). Range owner/operators should consult with various contractors to determine which containment system is best for their range.

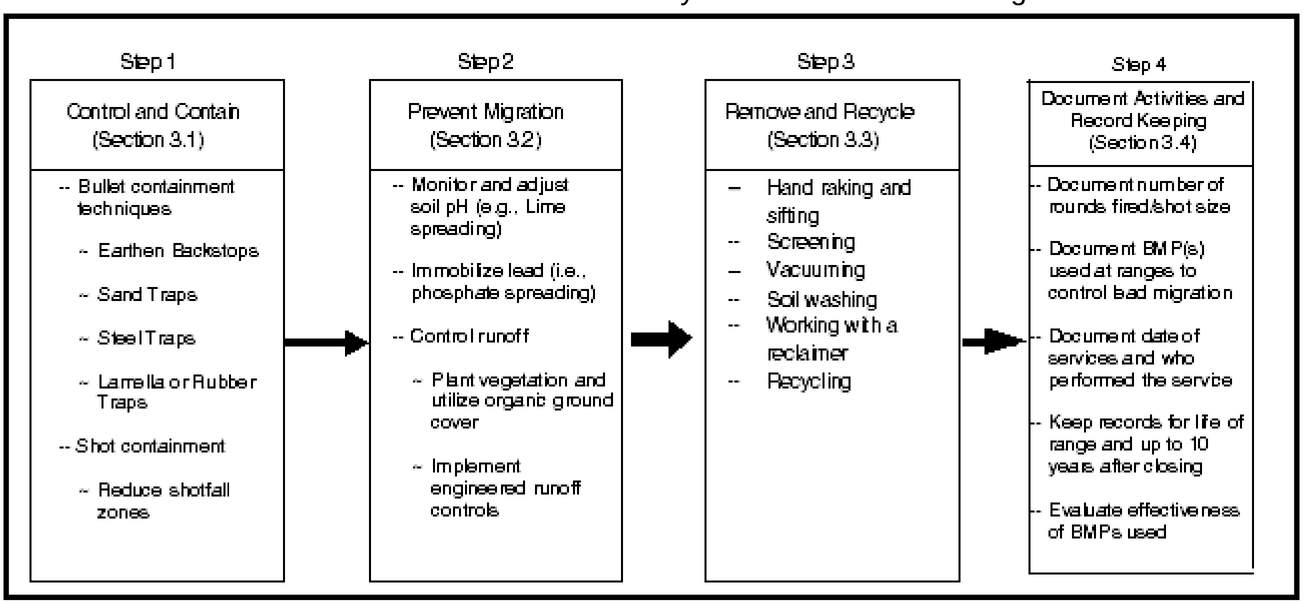


Figure 3-1 – 4 Steps to Build a Successful Lead Management Program Utilizing a Variety of BMPs

This section discusses BMPs for controlling spent lead bullets and fragments in a “controlled” and well-defined area behind the target area. Containing bullets and bullet fragments is critical to successfully managing lead.

There are a variety of containment device options available that serve as BMPs to control lead. The principle behind all of them is trapping and containing the actual bullet. They include:

- Earthen Berms and Backstops
- Sand Traps
- Steel Traps
- Lamella or Rubber Granule Traps

For each type of trap, design variations have been developed to fit the specific needs of an individual range. Below are discussions of each general category of trap. Some bullet containment devices are so comprehensive that they virtually eliminate lead’s contact with the environment.

However, it is important to discuss all types of bullet containment devices because they are part of comprehensive BMPs for managing lead at rifle and pistol ranges.

EPA does not endorse any bullet containment design as being “better” than another. Different containment designs attempt to eliminate lead’s contact with the environment, however, additional BMPs may be required for lead management.

EPA recommends that you discuss your range’s bullet containment needs with a variety of vendors before deciding what type of containment device to use. This manual does identify the possible advantages and disadvantages associated with each containment device in Table 3-1, at the back of this chapter.

Earthen Berms and Backstops

Perhaps the most common bullet containment system at rifle and pistol ranges is the earthen backstop (earthen material, i.e., sand, soil, etc., which is located directly behind the targets). The earthen backstop is generally between 15 and 20 feet high with a recommended slope as steep as possible[1]. In many instances, backstops may be naturally occurring hillsides. When using an earthen berm or backstop, ensure that the uppermost layer (to a depth of one to two feet) exposed to the shooting activity is free of large rocks and other debris. These materials tend to increase ricochet and bullet fragmentation, which will, in turn, make lead reclamation activities more difficult, not to mention possible safety issues.

Removal of lead from earthen backstops may require lengthy reclamation (see Section 3.3) of the soil to remove the lead. Continued use of the backstop without removing the lead may result in increased ricochet of bullets and fragments. In addition, the backstop may lose its slope integrity because of “impact pockets” that develop. Once the lead has been removed from the earthen backstop, the soil can be placed back on the range and used again. Adding lime and phosphate during the rebuilding process is recommended as appropriate (see Section 3.2). However, other bullet containment techniques, including those listed below, should be considered prior to reestablishing an earthen backstop.

Sand Traps

A variation of the earthen backstop is the sand trap. Sand traps range from those that are simply mounds of sand or soil located directly behind the bullet targets, which serve as backstops to a sand trap that employs a system designed to contain, collect and control lead and contact water. This sand trap uses a grade of sand that is ballistically acceptable. Regular maintenance must be performed to remove larger particles (bullets) from the impact area. These traps are placed so that bullets fired across the range pass through the targets and become embedded in the sand. These traps are typically 15 to 20 feet high with a slope as steep as possible. The most important design

1. National Rifle Association, “The NRA Range Source Book: A Guide to Planning and Construction,” June 1998

criteria for these traps is that the uppermost layer (to a depth of 1 to 2 feet) be free of large rocks and other debris to reduce ricochet and bullet fragmentation, and to facilitate reclamation efforts. There may also be an impermeable layer (e.g., clay or liner) under the sand to prevent lead from contacting the soil underlaying the trap.

Sand traps come in various designs and levels of complexity. The sand trap may be ballistic grade sand contained in a high backstop, or a more complex “Pit and Plate” system. The Pit and Plate system uses an angled, steel deflection plate cover that helps to direct bullets and bullet fragments to the top layer of sand only. Some of the more sophisticated sand traps incorporate lead recovery devices. However, the Pit and Plate may increase the surface-to-mass ratio of the bullet splatter and, therefore, may increase environmental risk of lead migration.

Regardless of the type of sand trap that is used, the traps become saturated with bullets/bullet fragments. Once this happens, the sand must be sifted (see Section 3.3) to remove the bullets. The recovered bullets can then be sold to a lead recycler (this is discussed in more detail later in the chapter). After sifting, the sand can be returned to the trap. Continued use of the trap, without removing the lead, may result in an increased risk of ricocheting off the backstop and thus creating an increased safety hazard. Furthermore, the sand trap will become unstable over time. Sand traps may be located over an impermeable liner, to prevent lead from contacting soil underlying the trap. This will provide additional protection to soil and groundwater.

Steel Traps

Steel traps are located directly behind the targets so that expended bullets, along with bullet particles, are directed into some form of deceleration chamber. Once inside the chamber, the bullets decelerate until the bullets/bullet particles fall into collection trays at the bottom of the deceleration chamber. When the trap is full, or on a more frequent basis, the spent lead can easily be reclaimed for recycling.

With some steel traps, expended lead bullets may not come in direct contact with soils, thereby possibly minimizing lead’s contact with the environment. Consequently, the need for other BMPs (e.g., lime spreading, and/or engineering controls), such as those required at ranges with unlined earthen backstops or unlined sand traps, may be avoided if this trap design is selected for the range’s bullet containment device. In addition, bullet removal is somewhat easier then a sand trap, and may only require emptying the bucket or tray containing the bullets and/or bullet fragments. However, an increase of lead dust and fragmented lead may be an additional environmental concern. Therefore, understanding the amount of lead dust and fragments is important to a successful lead management program. Also, some steel trap designs are not intended for shooting at different angles, therefore limiting the shooter to shooting straight on (no action shooting).

As with sand traps, steel traps vary in design and complexity. For example, the Escalator Trap has an upward sloping deflection plate that directs bullets into a spiral containment area at the top. The Vertical Swirl Trap is a modular, free standing trap with four steel plates that funnel the bullets into a vertical aperture in which they spin, decelerate, and become trapped in a bullet collection container. The Wet Passive Bullet Trap is equipped with steel deflection plates that slope both upward and downward. The upwardly sloped deflection plate is covered with an oil/water mixture to help reduce the occurrence of ricochet and bullet fragmentation. The bullet follows its own path in the round deceleration chamber for bullet recycling.

Lamella and Rubber Granule Traps

The Lamella Trap uses tightly-hanging, vertical strips of rubber with a steel backing to stop bullets. This trap is located directly behind the targets and, in many cases, the targets may actually be mounted to the trap. Lead removal requires mining the bullets from the rubber. The

Rubber Granule Trap uses shredded rubber granules, housed between a solid rubber front and a steel backing, to stop bullets once they pass through the target. For both traps, the bullets remain intact, thus eliminating lead dust and preventing lead and jacket back splatter. Depending on the design of the rubber trap, the bullet either remains embedded in the rubber strip or falls to the bottom of the trap, from which the bullets are removed for recycling.

These traps, when properly installed, are intended to increase safety by decreasing the occurrence of back splatter and eliminating the introduction of the lead dust into the air and ground. However, there are several concerns over their use since they may:

- require additional maintenance;
- may present a fire threat under extremely high volume use (due to heat from friction created upon bullet impact);
- not withstand weather elements over the long term; and
- cause the rubber particles to melt to the lead bullets - making lead reclamation more difficult.

<u>Bullet Containment Innovation</u>

Aside from the bullet containment devices discussed above, there are new designs and innovations continually being developed. One of these innovative bullet containment devices is Shock Absorbing Concrete (SACON). SACON has been used as a bullet containment device since the 1980's and extensively field tested by the military. SACON has not yet been available as a backstop material for small arms ranges. When available for conventional rifle and pistol ranges, SACON may provide a means to easily reclaim lead. Additionally, crushed, lead-free SACON can be recycled (re-casted) after bullet fragments have been removed by adding it to other concrete mixtures for use as sidewalks, curbs, etc.

3.1.2 Shot Containment

<u>Reducing the Shotfall Zone</u>

Unlike rifle and pistol ranges, the area impacted by lead shot fired at trap, skeet, and sporting clays ranges is spread out and remains primarily on the surface. **Knowing where spent lead is allows the appropriate BMP to be used. The single most effective BMP for managing lead in these areas is by reducing the shotfall zones.**

Concentrating the lead shot in a smaller area facilitates lead management by providing a smaller and more dense area of lead to both manage in-place and reclaim, thereby making the management and reclamation process simpler and more effective. To reduce the shotfall area at a range, owners/operators may choose to modify the shooting direction.

<u>Sporting Clays Courses</u>

Technologies have been developed to assist in reducing the range size of trap and skeet, and sporting clays facilities. The National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) has developed a Five-Stand Sporting Clays compact course designed for shooting sporting clay targets. The targets are directed over a smaller area then in English Style Sporting Clays (conventional sporting clays). It was originally designed to be overlaid on a conventional trap or skeet field and to be an alternative to English Style Sporting clays, which covers a much larger area. Another design, known as the National Rifle Association (NRA) Clays, is a portable target throwing unit which concentrates 15 rail-mounted machines on a two-story flatbed trailer. The NRA has also developed "compact sporting," which is specifically for sporting clay facilities. This practice alters the angle that the target is thrown to concentrates the shotfall zone.

<u>Skeet Fields</u>

The typical single skeet field has a shotfall zone that is fan-shaped. For skeet fields with multiple stands sided-by-side, the shotfall zones would overlap creating a shotfall zone that has a concentration of shot near the center of the fan.

Trap Fields

One way to reduce the shotfall zone at trap fields is to build the fields at an angle to one another. This will make the shape of the shooting dispersal pattern smaller and more concentrated. However, if you do decide to choose this option, be aware of safety issues when designing the overlapping shotfall zones.

For a range with only one trap field, one way to minimize the shotfall zone is to keep trap machines set in as few holes as possible (e.g., the number two or three hole setting). This reduces the area of lead concentration by limiting the angles for pigeon throwing, and therefore the area for lead shot fall. However, when two or more trap fields are positioned side by side, the shotfall zone will be continuous regardless of the "hole" setting.

3.2 BMPs to Prevent Lead Migration (Step 2)

This section discusses BMPs for preventing lead migration. These BMPs include:

- **Monitoring and adjusting soil pH**
- **Immobilizing lead**
- **Controlling runoff**

These BMPs are important for all outdoor ranges.

3.2.1 Monitoring and Adjusting Soil pH and Binding Lead

Lime Addition

The BMP for monitoring and adjusting soil pH is an important range program that can effect lead migration. Of particular concern are soils with low pH values (i.e., acidic conditions), because lead mobility increases in acidic conditions since the acid of the soils contributes to the lead break down. **The ideal soil pH value for shooting ranges is between 6.5 and 8.5**. This BMP is important because many soils in the eastern United States have pH values lower than 6.[2]

To determine the pH of your soil, purchase a pH meter at a lawn and garden center. The pH meters are relatively inexpensive but valuable tools in the management of lead at your range. If the soil pH is determined to be below 6, the pH should be raised by spreading lime. **It is recommended that the pH be checked annually**.

One way to control lead migration is by spreading lime around the earthen backstops, sand traps, trap and skeet shotfall zones, sporting clays courses and any other areas where the bullets/shots or lead fragments/dust accumulate. For example, lead mobilized in rainwater from the lead that spatters in front of backstops after bullet impacts can be effectively controlled by extending a limestone sand layer out about 15 feet in front of the backstop. Likewise, spreading lime over the shotfall zone will help to raise the pH of the very top soil layer to a pH closer to ideal levels and reduce the migration potential of lead. This is an easy, low cost method. Spreading lime neutralizes the acidic soils, thus minimizing the potential for the lead to degrade. Lime can be easily spread by using a lawn fertilizer drop spreader available at any lawn and garden center.

Smaller forms of limestone (powdered, pelletized, and granular) are better suited because they dissolve and enter the soil more quickly then larger forms. However, the smaller the forms of lime must be replenished more often. Conversely, limestone rock dissolves more slowly but does not need to be replenished as often. The larger rock form is better suited for drainage ditches, where it can decrease lead mobility by raising the pH of the storm water runoff.

Another way to control lead migration in earthen backstops is to break the capillarity within the base of the backstop. Most porosity in the soil material used in backstop is of capillary size,

2 National Shooting Sports Foundation, "Environmental Aspects of Construction and Management of Outdoor Shooting Ranges," June 1997

and, as a result, water is pulled upward into a capillary fringe within the base of the backstop. The height to which the water will rise in an earthen backstop depends on the soil material in the backstop. Water will rise more then 6-feet in clay, 3.3-feet in silt, 1.3-feet in fine sand, 5-inches in coarse sand, and only 2-inches in gravel.

Because of capillarity, the spent bullets may be in contact with acidic rainwater for a longer period of time, hence more lead is dissolved. Breaking the capillarity by adding a layer of limestone or gravel to the base of the backstop should reduce the rate of deterioration of spent bullets, the erosion of the backstop, and the amount of lead going into solution in the water in the backstop. Also, any lead dissolved should precipitate out of solution as the acids are neutralized and the pH raised from the water passing through and reacting with the limestone.

Lime spreading is an especially important method for implementing this BMP at sporting clays ranges where heavily wooded areas are less accessible to conventional lead removal equipment. These types of ranges also tend to have more detritus (e.g., leaves, twigs, etc.) on the ground, which can increase soil acidity as they decompose. **In these areas, semi-annual monitoring of the soil pH levels is suggested**.

Spreading bags of 50 pounds (at ranges with sandy soils) or 100 pounds (at ranges with clayey soils) per 1,000 square feet of range will raise the pH approximately one pH unit for a period of between one and four years, respectively. The market price of lime in either the granular or pelletized form should range from approximately $2.00 to $4.00 per 50 pound bag.

Table 3-2 provides information for raising pH levels of clay soils in temperate climates (i.e., Mid-Atlantic/Northeast). Additional information on the amount of lime to apply may also be found on the bags of the purchased lime and/or from the local lawn and garden center. It should be noted that if the soil pH is below 4.5, the addition of lime may only raise the soil pH to approximately 5. In this situation, other BMPs should be used as well. If the soil pH is above the ideal range upper value (8.5), do not add lime. Adding lime to a soil of this pH could result in mobilization of the lead. Lime spreading may be done at anytime during the year, except when the ground is frozen.

Additionally, it is important to remember to monitor the soil pH annually, as the effectiveness of the lime decreases over time. Additional routine applications will be necessary throughout the life span of most ranges.

<u>Phosphate Addition</u>

In addition to lime spreading, another way to control lead migration is phosphate spreading. This method is recommended where lead is widely dispersed in range soils, a range is closing, or there is a high potential for vertical lead transport to groundwater (e.g., low soil pH, shallow water table). Under these circumstances, range soils may benefit from phosphate treatment. Unlike lime spreading, the main purpose of phosphate spreading is not to

Table 3-2 – Calculating Weight of Lime to Increase Soil pH Values*

	Current pH	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.8	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5
Desired pH									
5.0 - 6.0		14	11	8	5	3	-	-	-
6.5 - 8.5		-	-	-	20	17	11	7	-

* Lime requirements stated as pounds of lime/100 square foot of problem area for clay soils in temperate climates (i.e., Mid-Atlantic/Northeast US).

adjust soil pH but to bind the lead particles. This process also decreases the potential amount of lead that can migrate off-site or into the subsurface. Phosphate spreading can be done either separately or in conjunction with lime spreading. Generally, 15 to 20 pounds of phosphate per 1,000 square feet will effectively control the lead.

Phosphate spreading is especially recommended for sporting clays ranges and those parts of ranges not easily accessible by reclamation equipment. Phosphate spreading should be repeated frequently during the range's lifetime. See pilot testing under "Other Ways to Bind Lead" below for proper frequency for replacing phosphate.

You can purchase phosphate either in its pure form, as phosphate rock, or as lawn fertilizer. The average lawn fertilizer costs approximately $7.00 per 40 pound bag. If you purchase lawn fertilizer, remember to check the bag for the actual percentage of phosphate. Most fertilizers contain 25% phosphate, so that if you purchase a 40 pound bag of fertilizer that contains 25% phosphate (i.e., 10 pounds of phosphate) you will need to spread 80 pounds of fertilizer per 1,000 square feet of the backstop. A typical fertilizer drop spreader can be used for distributing the phosphate. Like lime, phosphate should not be spread when the ground is frozen. In addition, it is not advised to use phosphate near water bodies since it contributes to algal blooms. Rock phosphate is a better choice if water is nearby.

Other Ways to Bind Lead

Although it may be possible to minimize lead's mobility by spreading fertilizers that contain phosphate at impacted areas of the range, a more comprehensive procedure for immobilizing leachable lead in soils, by using pure phosphate in rock form or a ground phosphate rock [Triple Super Phosphate (TSP)], was developed and patented by the USEPA/Ohio State University Research Foundation and RHEOX, Inc. This procedure used a three step approach to minimize lead's mobility. The first step was to identify the boundaries of the area of the range to be treated. This included not only determining the length and width of the range area, but also the depth of lead within the area.

Depth was determined by taking sample cores of the area, which also identified "hot spots" where lead accumulation was greatest. Once the area was identified, the second step was to treat the area with TSP. Pure phosphate rock was used rather then fertilizers, as this phosphate is insoluble in water and will not cause an increase in phosphate runoff. In addition, TSP pellets were approximately 80% minus 20 mesh size to ensure a uniform distribution of TSP after blending with soil.

In this step, pilot testing was conducted. Here, various amounts (in increasing percentages by weight) of TSP were added to the affected soil areas, then the area was tested according to an EPA test method that identified the amount of leachable lead in a given soil sample. This test is called the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure, or TCLP. Separate TCLP testing of the range's hot spots was conducted. There has been some discussion that the Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (SPLP) proposed by the EPA may be a more appropriate test.

Upon completion of the pilot testing, which determined the amount of TSP needed at the range, the third step was to begin actual treatment of the range. Where the depth of the lead accumulation was shallow (less than two feet), then standard yard equipment, such as tillers, seed/fertilizer spreaders, and plows were used to mix TSP with the affected soil. Where the affected area's lead accumulation was deeper than two feet, an auger was required to mix the TSP with the affected soil. Random testing of the range ensured the effectiveness of the treatment level.

3.2.2 Controlling Runoff

The BMPs for controlling soil erosion and surface water run-off are important to preventing lead from migrating off-site. There are two factors that influence the amount of lead transported off-site by surface water runoff: the amount of lead fragments left on the range and the velocity of the runoff.

The velocity of the water can successfully be controlled at outdoor ranges by: (1) using vegetative, organic, removable and/or permanent ground covers; and (2) implementing engineered controls which slow down surface water runoff and prevent or minimize the chances of lead migrating off-site. Bear in mind that safety considerations and potential ricochets need to be considered when implementing any engineered controls.

Vegetative Ground Cover

Planting vegetative ground cover (such as grass) is an important and easy erosion control method. However, planting vegetative ground cover at shotgun range fields may not be practical. Vegetation provides several benefits by minimizing the amount of lead that will run off the land surface during heavy rainfall. It is important to use a mixture of grass seeds to ensure that the cover will last into the future (i.e., annual rye grass lasts one year and dies and perennial rye grass lasts three to four years, then dies off). Fescue grasses form useful mats that are effective in controlling erosion.

Ground cover absorbs rainwater, which reduces the amount of water the lead is in contact with, as well as the time that the lead is in contact with the water. Furthermore, the ground cover will divert and slow down surface water runoff, thus helping to prevent lead from migrating off-site.

Grasses yield the greatest benefit at rifle and pistol ranges where the bullet impact areas are sloped, and water runoff and soil erosion may be more likely. Specific recommendations are to:

- Utilize quick growing turf grass (such as fescue and rye grass) for the grass covering of backstops, which can be removed prior to reclamation and replanted thereafter;
- Avoid vegetation that attracts birds and other wildlife to prevent potential ingestion of lead by wildlife; and
- Use grass to direct surface water drainage away from the target area (e.g., planting them at the top of the backstop or sand trap). This will minimize the water's contact with lead bullet fragments, minimizing the potential for lead migration.

Grass is not impermeable; however, it does slow down the rate of flow and reduce the amount of lead entering the soil via rainwater. Remember, grass requires periodic maintenance (i.e., mowing) to maintain its effectiveness as well as for aesthetic reasons.

Mulches and Compost

Mulches and composts can reduce the amount of water that comes in contact with the lead fragments. In addition, mulches and compost contain hermic acid, which is a natural lead chelating agent that actually sorbs lead out of solution and reduces its mobility. At a minimum, the material should be two inches thick. These materials can be spread over any impacted area and/or low lying areas where runoff and lead may accumulate. Like vegetative covers, organic surface covers are not impermeable. In addition, the organic material needs periodic replacement to maintain effectiveness and aesthetic integrity. Furthermore, these materials should be removed prior to any lead removal event, as they may impede sifting or screening. **Note that these materials tend to be acidic (especially during decomposition), so, if low pH is a concern at your range, this option may not be appropriate. Again, however, lime may be used to control pH (see Section 3.1.1)**

Surface Covers

Removable Surface Covers

Removable surface covers may be effective at outdoor trap and skeet ranges. In this case, impermeable materials (e.g., plastic liners) are placed over the shotfall zone during non-use periods. This provides the range with two benefits during periods of rainfall: (1) the shotfall zone is protected from erosion; and (2) the spent lead shot is contained in the shotfall zone and does not come in contact with rainwater.

Permanent Surface Covers

For outdoor rifle and pistol ranges, impact backstops and target areas can also be covered with roofed covers or other permanent covers to prevent rainwater from contacting berms. However, this method may be less desirable because of the cost to install the roof, which must be carefully designed to avoid safety issues with ricochets, etc.

For shotgun and other ranges, synthetic liners (e.g., asphalt, Astroturf™, rubber, other synthetic liners) can also be used beneath the shotfall zone to effectively prevent rainwater or runoff from filtering through lead and lead contaminated soil. Synthetic liners will generate increased runoff, which must be managed, however. No single type of liner is suitable for all situations based on site characteristics. Therefore, liners must be chosen on a site-specific basis, bearing in mind the site's unique characteristics, such as soil type, pH level, rainfall intensity, organic content of soil, and surface water drainage patterns.

Engineered Runoff Controls

Runoff control may be of greatest concern when a range is located in an area of heavy annual rainfall because of an increased risk of lead migration due to heavy rainfall events. A "hard" engineered run-off control may be needed in this situation. A heavy rainfall event is defined as rainfall that occurs at such a rate that it cannot be absorbed into the ground and causes an increase in the volume and velocity of surface runoff. The impacts of rainfall are greater in rolling or sloped terrain (increases velocity of runoff) or where surface water bodies are located on, or immediately adjacent to, the range.

Examples of "hard" controls include:

- Filter beds
- Containment Traps and Detention Ponds
- Dams and Dikes
- Ground Contouring.

Designing and implementing these "hard" engineering controls may require the assistance of a licensed professional civil engineer. They are included in this manual to offer the reader a general understanding of these BMP options. However, this manual does not offer specific instructions for construction and operation of these controls. For information about designing and implementing any of these controls, or assistance with other range design questions, contact a licensed professional civil engineer having applicable experience or the NRA Range Department, at (800) 672-3888, ext. 1417. The National Sports Shooting Foundation (NSSF) may be contacted at (203) 426-1320 for specific references regarding the use and design of these controls.

Filter Beds

Filter beds are engineering controls built into an outdoor range to collect and filter surface runoff water from the target range. The collected runoff water is routed to a filtering system, which screens out larger lead particles, raises the pH of the water (thus reducing the potential for further lead dissolution), and drains the water from the range area. This technique may not completely prevent lead from entering the subsurface, since lead bullets, fragments and large particles may still remain on the range.

Filter beds should be established at the base of the backstop (see Figure 3-2). In addition to mitigating off-site migration, the filter beds work to raise the pH of the rainwater, which has fallen on the target range, to reduce lead dissolution, and to strain small lead particles out of the rainwater. The filters typically consist of two layers: a fine-grained sand bed underlain by limestone gravel or other neutralization material. By design, the backstops and berms direct the runoff so that it drains from the range to the filters. The collected water then soaks through the top sand layer into the neutralization material, which raises the pH of the filtrate. The lead particles in the rainwater are collected on the sand, while the pH-adjusted water drains through the filter to a perforated drainage pipe located within the limestone gravel.

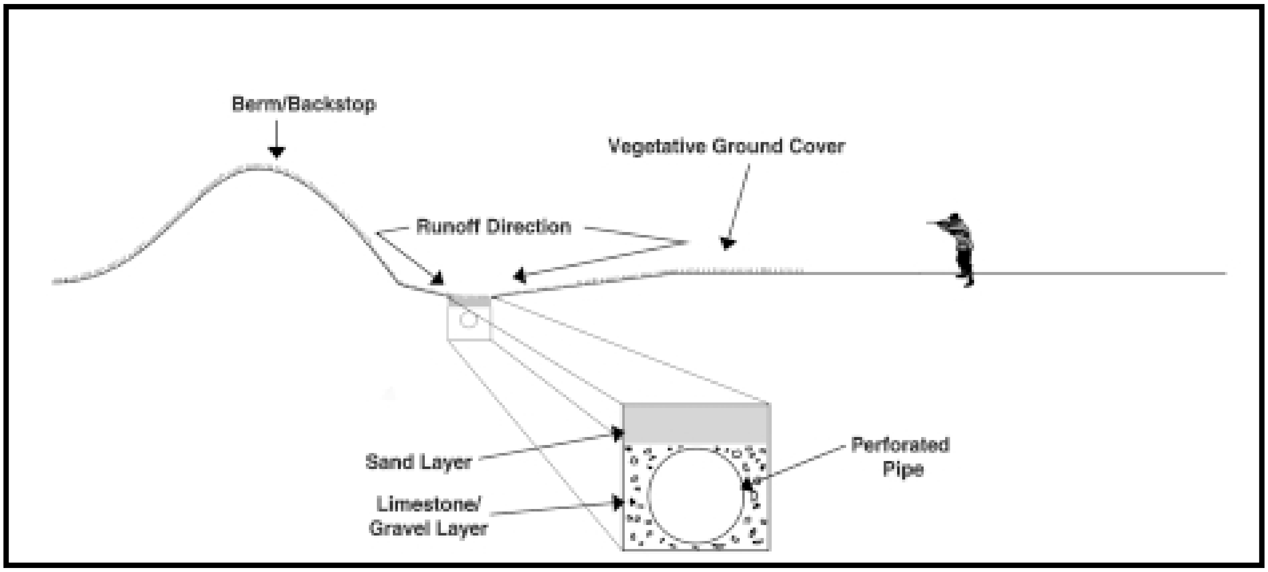


Figure 3-2 – Sample Filter Bed System (Adapted from Proceedings for National Shooting, Range Symposium, October 17-19, 1993, North American Hunting Club and Wildlife Forever)

Filter beds are designed to capture fine particles of lead transported in surface water runoff. They are not designed to capture bullets. The operation and maintenance requirements of filter beds are minimal. Maintenance activity is limited to periodic removal of debris (such as litter, leaves, etc.) and occasional replenishment of the limestone.

The use of filter beds is most effective on sites with open, rolling terrain where surface water runoff is directed to them. At existing rifle and pistol ranges, a limited system of trenches and filters can be installed at the base of natural soil backstops or at natural drainage depressions.

Containment Traps and Detention Ponds

Containment traps and detention ponds are designed to settle out lead particles during heavy rainfall. Typically, they are depressions or holes in the range's drainage paths. Here, the lead-containing runoff passes through the trap or pond, allowing the lead bullet fragments to settle out. Vegetative cover can be placed in the drainage path to increase the effectiveness of containment traps and ponds by further reducing the velocity of runoff and allowing for more lead fragments to settle from the runoff. It is important to regularly collect the lead and send this lead to a recycler.

Dams and Dikes

At shotgun ranges, dams and dikes can also be used to reduce the velocity of surface water runoff. Dams and dikes must be positioned perpendicular to the direction of runoff to slow the flow of surface water runoff. To accomplish this, determine the direction of the range's surface water runoff. This will be particularly obvious at ranges with sloped terrain. The dams or dikes should be constructed using mounds of dirt that are approximately a foot high. These mounds should transect the entire range perpendicular to the stormwater runoff direction.

These runoff controls are most important at ranges at which off-site runoff is a potential problem, such as ranges where the lead accumulation areas are located upgradient of a surface water body or an adjacent property. Since lead particles are heavier than most other suspended particles, slowing the velocity of surface water runoff can reduce the amount of lead transported in runoff.

Ground Contouring

Another mechanism to slow runoff and prevent lead from being transported off site is ground contouring. By altering drainage patterns, the velocity of the runoff can be reduced.

Furthermore, in areas where pH is high (resulting in a lower potential for lead dissolution), the soil can be graded or aerated to increase the infiltration rate of precipitation, so that rainwater is more easily absorbed into the soil. This slows down or prevents surface water runoff and off-site migration. It should be pointed out that this design, in effect, collects lead in the surface soils. Therefore, range operation and maintenance plans should include lead reclamation as well as adjusting the pH, and adding phosphate.

3.3 Lead Removal and Recycling (Step 3)

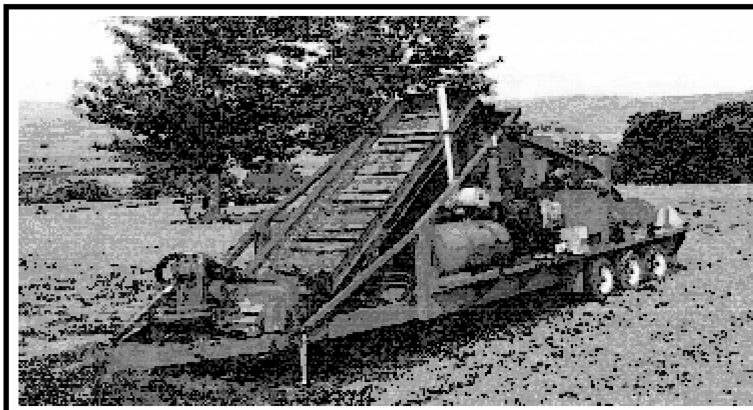
To successfully minimize lead migration, the most important BMP for lead management is lead reclamation. Implementing a regular reclamation program will allow you to avoid expensive remediation and potential litigation costs. Ranges in regions with high precipitation and/or with acidic soil conditions may require more frequent lead recovery since the potential for lead migration is greater. In regions with little precipitation and/or where the soil is somewhat alkaline, spent bullets may be allowed to accumulate on the soil for a longer time between reclamation events. It should be noted that to ensure that lead is not considered “discarded” or “abandoned” on your range within the meaning of the RCRA statute (i.e., a hazardous waste), periodic lead removal activities should be planned for and conducted. This typically requires one or more of the following:

- Hand Raking and Sifting
- Screening
- Vacuuming
- Soil Washing (Wet Screening, Gravity Separation, Pneumatic Separation)

These methods are discussed in detail below. Figure 3-3 provides examples of common lead reclamation equipment.

Also, it is important to be aware that state regulations may require that the material being sent for recycling have a minimum lead content in order to qualify as a scrap metal that can be

Figure 3-3 – Examples of Lead Reclamation Equipment



Example of shaker system.
Courtesy of National Range Recovery

Example of final separation device ***(Patented Pneumatic Separation Unit) used with a Shaker System. Courtesy of MARCOR.***

shipped under a bill of lading (i.e., exempt from RCRA).

Hand Raking and Sifting

A simple BMP that can be done by club members, particularly at small ranges, is raking and/or sifting bullet fragments from the soil. Sifting and raking activities should be concentrated at the surface layer. This is a low-technology and low-cost management alternative for lead reclamation. Once collected, the lead must be taken to a recycler or re-used. Arrangement with a recycler should be made prior to collecting any spent lead to avoid having to store the lead and avoid potential health, safety and regulatory concerns associated with storing lead.

At trap and skeet ranges, conducting sifting and raking activities in the shot fall zone (approximately 125 - 150 yards from the shooting stations) will yield the most lead. For sporting clay ranges, these activities should be conducted around tree bases, where lead shot tends to collect. Basically, the process consists of raking with a yard rake the topsoil in the shot fall areas into piles, as if you were raking leaves, removing any large debris (e.g., rocks, twigs, leaves, etc.), and then sifting the soil using screens.

Once the soil has been raked and collected, pass it through a standard 3/16 inch screen to remove the large particles. This process will allow the lead shot sized particles to pass through the screen. The sifted material (those not captured by the 3/16 inch screen) should be passed through a 5/100 inch screen to capture the lead and lead fragments. This process will also allow sand and other small sediment to pass through the screen. Screens can be purchased at many local hardware stores. The screens should be mounted on a frame for support. The frame size will vary based on the technique used by each range. For example, if one person is holding the framed screen, it may be better to use a smaller frame (2 feet by 2 feet) whereas, if several people are holding the framed screen, it can be larger.

Raking and sifting can be performed by club members on a volunteer basis. Some clubs provide incentives, such as reduced fees, to members who assist with the lead removal process. Other clubs have hired college students during the summer. A number of small clubs have found that reloaders will volunteer to rake in exchange for collected shot.
Hand sifting and raking are cost effective lead removal techniques for small ranges, or low shooting volume ranges. However, these techniques may not be appropriate for situations in which there is a large volume of lead on the range. In this instance, reclamation machinery may be more appropriate.

Note: Those conducting the hand raking and sifting reclamation at ranges should protect themselves from exposure to lead. Proper protective gear and breathing apparatus should be worn. The Occupational Safety and Health Administation (OSHA) or an appropriate health professional should be contacted to learn about proper protection.

Purchasing/Renting Mechanical Separation Machinery

Reclamation equipment may be rented from local equipment rental services. One type of machine that that it may be possible to rent for lead shot reclamation is known as a screening machine (also referred to as a mobile shaker, gravel sizer, or potato sizer). This device uses a series of stacked vibrating screens (usually two screens) of different mesh sizes and allows the user to sift the lead shot-containing soil [gathered by hand raking, sweeping, or vacuuming (discussed above)]. The uppermost screen (approximately 3/16 inch mesh) collects larger than lead shot particles, and allows the smaller particles to pass through to the second screen. The second screen (approximately 5/100 inch mesh) captures lead shot, while allowing smaller particles to pass through to the ground. The lead shot is then conveyed to a container such as a five gallon bucket. In the Northeastern United States, the typical rental cost for this equipment is between $500 and $4,500 a week, depending on the size shaker desired. It may be possible to get more information on rentals for this type of equipment from heavy equipment rental companies.

Another possible option is to rent a vacuum system that will collect the lead shot-containing soil from the range. Here, vacuuming takes the place of hand raking or sweeping. A vacuum machine is used to collect the lead shot-containing soil. Once collected, the lead shot-containing soil must be sifted through a screening system (either a rental screening machine, or a series of home made framed screen sets). You may be able to obtain more information about renting vacuums or vacuuming services (e.g., it may include a person to operate the machinery),from heavy equipment rental companies.

Some clubs have found that performing their own lead reclamation to be very time consuming. Part of the reason these reclamations took so long is that the soils were wet. Reclamation is much easier under dry soil conditions. For example, one club reclaimed lead from their range, using equipment they modified themselves. Twenty-five tons of lead were collected but the reclamation took over two years. Another club took a year to reclaim 10 tons of lead. A more preferrable option may be to hire a reclamation company.

<u>Hiring a Professional Reclamation Company</u>

Another option for lead removal is to hire a professional reclaimer. Lead reclamation companies claim to recover 75%-95% of the lead in the soils. Generally with reclamation companies there is no minimum range size requirement for lead reclamation. Concentration of lead is more important than quantity spread over a field, especially if it is a difficult range for reclamation (e.g., hilly, rocky, a lot of clay in the soil).

Please note that reclamation companies tend to be in high demand — it may take over a year for the company to start at your club. Therefore, it is wise to plan ahead and make the call to the reclamation company as early as possible.

Some reclamation companies require a site visit to view the topography, the soil composition, and amount of lead observed on the ground. During the visit, some companies may even do a site analysis to determine whether or not it is feasible to reclaim. This analysis identifies the location of lead, the expected recovery amount, and the depth lead reaches into the soils.

<u>Reclamation Activities</u>

Using machinery to reclaim lead usually requires that the area be clear of scrub vegetation. Grass, mulch, or compost is generally removed or destroyed during the reclamation process. Some reclamation companies have no problem beginning reclamation on a grassy field. Other reclamation companies will remove grass before or during reclamation (by burning it, if allowed locally, leaving behind the lead shot), and still others require that all vegetation be removed before they arrive at the range. Some companies will re-seed the area once the reclamation is completed.

Since sporting clay ranges generally have many trees, removal of vegetation as discussed above may not directly apply to existing sporting clay ranges. At these ranges, the focus is on removing vegetative debris (i.e., fallen limbs, tree bark, etc.) prior to reclamation. This may include removing some trees to gain better access with the reclamation machinery. Of course, when designing a new sporting clay range, steps to facilitate lead reclamation should be taken into account. For example, less and more widely spaced trees will facilitate lead reclamation.

Reclamation companies use several types of machinery to reclaim lead. Some companies drive their separation machinery over the site. The lead-laden soil is picked up, processed and then returned to the ground after most of the lead is removed. Other companies scrape off the top several inches of soil from the ground, using a front-end loader to bring the soil/lead to stationary reclamation machines, and then return the soil to the field after reclamation. Many companies till the top two to five inches of soil and grass immediately prior to reclamation to facilitate the process (some companies may require this to be done prior to arrival on the range).

Regardless of how it is collected, the actual reclamation of the lead follows the same general pattern. Most often, it is sifted through a series of shaking screens. The lead and soil pass through shaking screens (usually at least two screens) of decreasing mesh (hole) size, with the topmost screen having the largest mesh. This part of the reclamation machinery is usually adapted from machinery used for potato or gravel sizing.

Any soil/debris automatically screened out as being too big or too small is either returned to the field or re-screened to ensure no lead is caught in the debris. This procedure is why moist, clay soils are more difficult to reclaim. The moist, clay soils can bind together into shot-sized pellets producing more “product” for the second part of the reclamation. The wet soils can also clog the screens.

For some reclamation companies, their process ends after sifting the soil and returning it to the ground. However, some companies take reclamation one step further. After screening, the resulting lead, soil, and other lead-sized particles enter a blowing system. Here the lead shot is easily separated from the soil and other debris by the blowing air. The lead is much more dense than the soil and other lead-sized debris so that it falls out first. Figure 3-3 depict examples of actual lead reclamation machinery.

Some lead reclamation companies will perform the reclamation during club off-hours so that club activities are not interrupted. Additionally, some perform the reclamation on a field-by-field basis, to minimize any disruptions to club activities. However, others companies require the club to shut down during the reclamation. Reclamation time varies depending on weather, site accessibility, range size, and number of personnel assigned to perform the reclamation.

Reclamation activities may generate dust, especially in drier western locations. To prevent or minimize dust from traveling off the range and causing complaints from neighbors, reclamation activities generating dust should only be conducted during periods of no wind. In addition, such activities should be completed as quickly as possible.

<u>Vacuuming</u>

For ranges that are located on hilly, rocky, and/or densely vegetated terrain, several reclamation companies employ a vacuum system that collects the lead shot (and soil and other detritus). The resulting mix is then placed into the reclamation machinery discussed above. This method is especially effective for sporting clay ranges where lead shot tends to pile up around tree bases.

Vacuuming has traditionally been used for removal of lead shot from trap, skeet and sporting clay ranges. Another way to apply this method involves removing the top layer of an earthen backstop or sand trap with shovels. It is then spread thinly over an impermeable material such as plywood. A vacuuming device is then used to collect the materials that are lighter than lead (e.g., sand or soil), while leaving behind the heavier materials (i.e., lead bullets/shots and fragments). The soil can then be returned to the range. This process is most efficient for dry, sandy soils without a lot of organic material. A more recent innovation is the use of a high suction vaccum. This vaccum itself does not have to be moved about, since a very long hose (up to 600 feet) is used to move in and around trees during the collection of lead shot at trap and skeet ranges.

<u>Soil Washing (Physical and Gravity Separation)</u>

Soil washing is a proven technology and another lead reclamation method used by some reclaimers to separate the lead particles from the soils. Soil washing is the separation of soils into its constituent particles of gravel, sand, silt and clay. Because of the much higher surface area and surface binding properties of clay, most lead contaminants tend to adhere to the clay particles.

Soil washing, therefore, attempts to generate a clean sand and gravel fraction by removing any fines adhering to the larger soil particles and, if necessary, to transfer contaminants bound to the surface of the larger particles to the smaller soil particles. Typically, the soils are first excavated from the range and then mixed into a water-based wash solution. The wet soil is then separated using either wet screening or gravity separation techniques. One benefit of this system of reclamation is that it does not require that soils be dry.

In addition, soil washing may be able to recover all or almost all lead particles through a combination of wet screen sizing and density separation. This technique is an option for remediation of a range being closed and may compare favorably from an economic standpoint with the disposal option.

Soils treated using this method have been shown to be below 5 mg/L TCLP and to have up to 99% of particulate lead removed. Treatment costs are site specific, but can range from less then $40 per ton (1999 levels) for simple physical/gravity separation up to about $100 per ton for processes involving leaching. Credits for recycled lead help offset the treatment cost and the cost of recycling any treatment sludges and concentrated soil fines. Water used in soil washing is from a closed loop system and should only be disposed at completion of cleanup. Experience shows the water to not be a RCRA regulated hazardous waste, therefore probably allowing disposal to a local wastewater treatment plant.

Wet Screening

With this method, particles larger and smaller than the surrounding soils are passed through a series of large-mesh to small-mesh screens. Each time the mixture passes through a screen, the volume of the soil mixture is reduced. Large particles such as lead shot/bullets and fragments are screened out of the soil/wash mixture early in the process and can be taken off-site for recycling - allowing the soil to be placed back on-site.

Gravity Separation

This technique can be used in cases where the lead particles are the same size as surrounding soil particles. The wet soil/wash mixture is passed through equipment, which allows the more dense materials (i.e., lead materials) to settle to the bottom of unit and separate out of the soil/wash mixture.

Pneumatic Separation

Pneumatic separation (see figure 3-3) is an effective means to enhance the traditional screening results. Traditional screening cannot separate shot and bullets from other shot and bullet sized material, i.e., rocks, stones, roots, and various debris. A recycling facility considers non-lead items as “contaminants” which drastically reduces the value of the recycled lead. Pneumatic separation utilizes an air stream, and specific density analysis, to effectively separate the shot/bullets from the other shot/bullet sized material.

3.3.1 BMPs to Assist Lead Reclamation and Recycling

There are several operational activities that should be conducted throughout the year to facilitate reclamation. The following is a discussion of these activities.

<u>Frequency of Lead Removal</u>

It is important to perform lead removal at a frequency appropriate your site. The frequency is dependent on several factors. These include:

- Number of rounds fired
- Soil pH
- Annual precipitation
- Soil Type
- Depth to groundwater.

Lead volume, as estimated by the number of rounds fired, is a factor in determining the appropriate frequency of reclamation at ranges. It also assists in determining whether a range may receive economic returns from lead sold after reclamation. One reclamation company indicated that to make reclamation economically feasible, a backstop could be reclaimed when it contains at least 20 pounds of lead per square foot of backstop. Another source indicated that a maximum of 100,000 rounds per firing lane could be allowed before reclamation of the lead occurs. This would assure good range operation and maintenance as well as be a cost effective amount of lead for recovery purpose.

For shotgun ranges, tracking the number of targets thrown can help indicate when the lead shot should be reclaimed. For example, one source indicated that when a range has thrown approximately 250,000 to 1,000,000 targets, depending on the shooting area, reclamation of the lead shot should occur. Another reclaimer indicated that if about two pounds of lead per square foot accumulated on the range, cost effective reclamation was possible.

Because the number of rounds fired is important to know, establishing record keeping procedures to monitor the number of rounds fired is recommended. This can be accomplished by maintaining logbooks and asking shooters to list the number of rounds shot and the type/size of shot/bullets they use. This should be done by lane and by stand.

There are many ranges at which lead removal has not occurred for many years. Many of these ranges are used extensively. Such ranges are especially good candidates for potential positive cash flow as a result of removal and recycling. Subsequent removal frequency depends on range use and environmental factors. The NRA recommends a frequency of one to five years for lead cleanup, even on ranges with minimal use[4]. One possible approach to making reclamation more cost effective is for a number of ranges in the same geographical area to work together in organizing coordinated removals at their ranges. This will reduce the reclaimer travel and mobilization cost for each range.

Minimization of Vegetation

As discussed previously, vegetation is useful both for controlling the amount of runoff and erosion from the range and inhibiting lead mobility. **However, excessive or unmaintained vegetative cover can interfere with reclamation activities.** For example, large amounts of vegetation impedes the screening and sifting processes used by many reclamation companies. Therefore, prior to reclamation activities, it is best to remove, reduce, or mow excessive vegetation from the area. Once the reclamation has been conducted, quick-growing vegetation such as a rye/fescue grass mix should be replanted. This process should be repeated for each reclamation event.

In addition, heavily wooded areas may inhibit lead reclamation because they are less accessible by heavy reclamation machinery. For ranges that are heavily wooded, it is recommended that you minimize the vegetation or modify the range design to allow lead reclamation equipment access to the range. Access to the impact area should be developed to facilitate reclamation. **Make sure that the pathways do not present a safety risk.**

Innovative Landscaping

Some new ranges are landscaping their ranges to include a sand track (an area the size of the shotfall zone that is only sand) located behind some aesthetically pleasing shrubs. This allows the spent shot to concentrate on the sand, making it very easy to perform reclamation because there is no interference by vegetation.

Selecting a Lead Reclaimer

In ensuring that the reclamation is conducted appropriately, selecting a reclaimer that is right for your range is extremely important. Some lead reclamation companies will travel to your range and assess the range prior to conducting lead collection activities. This assessment trip allows the reclamation company to confirm information gained during initial discussions, as well as to assist in appropriately estimating costs, time required, and the estimated volume of lead at the range. Conducting this pre-assessment also allows you to determine which reclaimer is right for your situation.

4. National Rifle Association, “Metallic “Bullets” lead Deposits on Outdoor and Indoor Firing Ranges” 1991

Questions Commonly asked by the Reclaimer

When you contact a reclamation company, it is likely that the reclaimer will ask several general questions. Typical questions include:

- When was the last reclamation conducted?
- How many rounds have been shot since that last reclamation?
- What is the use frequency of the range?
- What are the site characteristics and soil types?
- What type of bullet containment device is used at the range?

Answering these questions will be a lot easier if you have maintained good records, as is suggested above.

Questions to ask the reclaimer

When choosing a reclaimer be sure to ask the general questions about prior cleanups (past projects), insurance to cover company and cleanup (general liability insurance, pollution insurance, bonding, etc.), and site plans to ensure health and safety of workers and range personnel. Other questions you may want to ask the reclaimer include:

- Can the reclamation take place outside normal hours of range operation?
- What cost are involved and what is the “profit” sharing arrangement?
- How long will the reclamation take?
- Does vegetation at the range need to be removed?

Economic Considerations

Lead removal costs, if incurred, may vary dramatically depending upon the type and volume of soil or sediments, topography, amount of lead, and location. Because the economics of reclamation varies due to many factors, this manual does not provide specific estimates. However, it is important to understand that lead reclamation may or may not be economically beneficial. Economic benefits can be captured in two ways:

- Monetary returns from selling reclaimed lead
- Future cost avoidance by minimizing the need for costly site remediation Some

reclaimers bid the lowest flat fee with all the lead provided to the range for selling. The range owners/operators must then consider the transportation costs to send the reclaimed bullets to a recycling company. Alternatively, in a “profit-sharing” situation, the reclaimer will ideally split the economic return of lead sold for recycling based on the volume reclaimed and the current value of lead. In a best case scenario, the average split may by 50/50, but it may also be lower. Although the value of lead varies, the value of reclaimed lead typically falls between $.10 and $.25 per pound **excluding transportation cost**. See the appendix for contact information regarding lead reclamation companies that specialize in lead removal at outdoor ranges.

3.4 Documenting Activities and Record Keeping (Step 4)

Documenting activities and keeping good records is of paramount importance for an effective lead management program at a range. Owners/operators should document all activities done at the range with respect to BMPs and recycling of lead. Records should be kept on when services were provided and who provided them.

Owners/operators may want to document what type of BMP(s) were implemented to control lead migration, the date of service, and who did the services. The records should be kept for the life of the range. Records may be used to show that owners/operators are doing their part to help prevent lead migration off-site and show that they are doing their part to be stewards of the environment.

3.5 Additional Economic Considerations

Not all BMPs need to be implemented at once. Many can be phased in over time. However, it is important to begin implementing BMPs, especially lead reclamation and recycling, as soon as possible. Implementing the most appropriate BMPs for your range requires consideration of your range characteristics and costs associated with implementing the BMPs. This manual provides a large selection of BMPs that vary in both cost and sophistication. In selecting BMPs for your range, it is important to look at all costs and all the benefits (or potential problems) associated with each BMP.

3.6 Summary of Key BMPs for Shooting Ranges

There are several BMPs that are highly recommended to be implemented, if applicable to your range. Table 3-1 identifies the advantages and disadvantages of all BMPs discussed in this chapter. This table serves as a quick reference guide for potential BMPs. Readers should refer back to the detailed discussions above for further information regarding these BMPs.

Table 3-1 – Summary of Key BMPs

BMPs for Preventing Lead Migration		
Monitoring and Adjusting pH		
BMP Option	**Advantages**	**Disadvantages**
Lime Spreading	1. Easy 2. Inexpensive 3. Effective	1. Does not offer a permanent solution 2. Will not work in extremely acidic conditions
Immobilizing Lead		
BMP Option	**Advantages**	**Disadvantages**
Phosphate Spreading	1. Easy 2. Inexpensive 3. Effective	1. Does not offer a permanent solution
Controlling Runoff		
BMP Option	**Advantages**	**Disadvantages**
Vegetative Ground Cover (e.g., grass, etc.)	1. Easy 2. Aesthetically pleasing 3. Relatively inexpensive 4. Effectively slows and can redirect runoff 5. Some may "bioabsorb" lead	1. Requires periodic maintenance 2. Must be removed or reduced prior to reclamation 3. Excessive vegetation will interfere with reclamation
Organic Surface Cover (e.g., mulch and compost)	1. Easy 2. Aesthetically pleasing 3. Relatively inexpensive 4. Effectively slows and can redirect runoff	1. Requires periodic maintenance 2. Must be removed prior to reclamation 3. May not be suitable at ranges with acidic soil conditions
Filter Beds	1. Diverts and treats lead contaminated runoff 2. Low maintenance 3. Assists with range drainage	1. May require hiring a licensed engineer 2. Higher initial setup cost

Table 3-1 – Continued

BMP Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
Water/Sediment Traps	1. Low maintenance 2. Assists with range drainage	1. May require hiring a licensed engineer 2. Higher initial setup cost
Dams and Dikes	1. Low maintenance 2. Assists with range drainage	2. Higher initial setup cost
Ground Contouring	1. Lower initial setup cost 2. Assists with range drainage	1. May require hiring a licensed engineer
<u>Controlling and Containing Bullets</u>		
Bullet Containment Devices		
BMP Option	**Advantages**	**Disadvantages**
Earthen Backstop	1. Minimal (if any) inital setup cost 2. Accepts firing from various guns and directions	1. Build up of bullets increases chances of ricochet and fragmentation problems 2. Lead removal requires mining 3. Potential decreased value of lead because it is less clean then lead reclaimed from other trap systems 4. Does not eliminate lead's intorduction into the environment
Sand Trap	1. Low initial setup cost 2. Ease of maintenance 3. Accepts firing from various guns and directions	1. Build up of bullets increases chances of ricochet and fragmentation problmes 2. Lead removal requires mining
Pit and Plate Trap (Sand)	1. Low initial setup cost 2. Simple intallation 3. Lead removal and recycling requires less extensive mining	1. Lead builds up on top layer of sand causing ricochet problems 2. Increased bullet fragmentation 3. Higher level of maintenance then sand traps

[1] Much of this information was obtained from Action Target's Bullet Containment Trap Technologies video. Reference to various pros and cons of individual bullet containment devices is included in this manual for informational purposes only. The USEPA does not endorse any particular bullet containment device, design, or product.

Table 3-1 – Continued

Controlling and Containing Bullets Con't		
Bullet Containment Devices		
BMP Option	**Advantages**	**Disadvantages**
Earthen Backstop	1. Minimal (if any) inital setup cost 2. Accepts firing from various guns and directions	1. Build up of bullets increases chances of ricochet and fragmentation problmes 2. Lead removal requires mining 3. Potential decreased value of lead because it is less clean then lead reclaimed from other trap systems 4. Does not eliminate lead's intorduction into the environment
Sand Trap	1. Low initial setup cost 2. Ease of maintenance 3. Accepts firing from various guns and directions	1. Build up of bullets increases chances of ricochet and fragmentation problmes 2. Lead removal requires mining
Pit and Plate Trap (Sand)	1. Low initial setup cost 2. Simple intallation 3. Lead removal and recycling requires less extensive mining	1. Lead builds up on top layer of sand causing ricochet problems 2. Increased bullet fragmentation 3. Higher level of maintenance then sand traps

Table 3-1 – Continued

Controlling and Containing Bullets Con't		
Bullet Containment Devices		
BMP Option	**Advantages**	**Disadvantages**
Rubber Granule	1. Can be used indoors or outdoors 2. Reduction of lead dust	1. Rubber strips quickly become destroyed and must be replaced 2. Potential fire hazard 3. High maintenance 4. Scattered lead fragments mixed with rubber can migrate - lead contaminated granules are hazardous and require special handling
Removal and Recycling of Lead		
Hand Raking and Sifting	1. Easily done by club members 2. Inexpensive 3. Can be done outside operating hours 4. Relatively effective	1. May be more time consuming at large ranges 2. Weather sensative (i.e., works best under dry conditions) 3. Exposure to lead and lead dust possible
Screening	1. Effective 2. Potential economic returns	1. Vegetation must be removed 2. Weather sensative (i.e., works best under dry conditions)
Vacuuming	1. Effective 2. Can be used at least accessible ranges 3. Less vegetation needs to be removed	1. Weather sensi tive (i.e., works best under dry conditions)
Soil Washing	1. Effective at cleaning the soil to remove the lead particles so one is left with non-lead soil	1. Vegetation must be removed